Invitation to President of Russia and Other Republics

4665. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR:
SHRI MUKUL BALAKRISHNA WASNIK:
SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has extended invitation to the President of Russia and other Republics of USSR to visit India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and their response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Presidents of the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Turkmenistan and Tadjikistan have so far been invited to visit India. The dates of their visits are being finalised through diplomatic channels.

Closure of Steel Plants Due to Non–Supply of Imported Carbon Steel Scrap

4666. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of steel plants in the country have been closed during the current year due to non–supply of imported carbon steel scrap;

(b) if so, whether the Metal Scrap Trading Corporation has not imported adequate quantity of carbon steel scrap;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to meet its demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEB) (a) It is not a fact that a large number of steel plants in the country have been closed during the current year due to non–supply of imported carbon steel melting scrap. However, production in the ministeei industry has been affected due to the shortage of imported steel melting scrap.

(b) and (c). Import of melting scrap through the canalising agency, Metal Scrap Trade Corporation (MSTC), has reduced during the current year due to non–availability of adequate free foreign exchange.

(d) Efforts are being made to increase imports through MSTIC. The user industries can also import scrap directly through the use of Exim Scrips.

Import of Petroleum Products

4667. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS Will the Minister of be pleased to state:

(a) whether the indigeneous production of petroleum products is inadequate to meet the internal demand;

(b) whether the Government propose to import petroleum products during 1991–92;

(c) if so, the details of the countries from where petroleum products are likely to be imported;

(d) the details of the efforts being made by the Government to boost the production

of petroleum products in the country during the last one year; and

(e) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Petroleum products are being imported during the current year (1991–92) under term contracts with the National Oil Companies of USSR, China, Malayasia, USE and Bahrain and through spot purchases.

(d) and (e). Amongst the steps being taken by the Government to bridge the gap of petroleum products are;

(i) Intensification of activities relating to exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas;

(ii) Setting up of grass root refineries and expansion of existing refineries; and

(iii) Attaching high priority to energy conservation measures in all sectors of economy.

[*Translation*]

Accredition to Agencies for making Passports

4668. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accorded accredition to various agencies for making passports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of authorised agencies working under the Regional Passport Office at Bareilly;

(d) whether certain agencies working under the Bareilly Regional Passport Office have been blacklisted; and

(e) if so, the details of such agencies and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and(b). Travel Agencies are given recognition to deal with a Passport Office in India in respect of passport matters of their customers.

(c) Ten.

(d) Appropriate action are being taken against two travel agencies.

(e)(i)The UP Police have registered a case of forgery against M/s Ganga Travels Haridwar. The Police has seized about 300 passports/documents from this Company.

(ii) The Up Police have reported adversely against M/s. International Trade and Travel Service, Meerut.

[*English*]

Soviet Aided Steel Plants

4669. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent developments in USSR have had any adverse effects on the ongoing/existing steel projects taken up with Soviet aid/collaboration; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure regular supply and flow of capital